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FEBRUARY 25, 2021

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Volume 105 • Number 48

www.sentinelturley.com



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Granby Police Chief set to retire

BOS talk process

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff report

GRANBY – After spending over 25 years serving in the town of Granby, Police Chief Alan Wishart will retire from the department this year.



ARCHIVE PHOTO
Granby Police
Chief Alan Wishart

The subject of his retirement and his replacement was discussed at the Feb. 16 Granby Selectboard meeting.

Town Administrator Chris Martin began the conversation, starting with the date of Wishart's retirement is still up in the air.

"He would like to change his retirement from May 1 to either July 1 or July 2," Martin said. "As part of the process I believe the board should have a conversation with him as a contracted employee and it should be a negotiation done in an executive session."

He said there are a couple of options that were being proposed and the board should be able to explore the options before making it public.

There will be an executive session to discuss the date of the chief's retirement at the board's March 1 meeting.

Selectboard member Jay Joyce said the group should move forward in replacing the chief.

Wishart suggested that the group get a replacement in place so "the department knows what the process is going to be, have it set and effective July 1 or July 2."

Martin said he looked on the Massachusetts Municipal Association's website for

See CHIEF, page 4 •



The Belchertown Selectboard added two new members to the Fire Chief Search Committee in its meeting on Monday night.

Two members join Fire Chief Search Committee

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Going from a seven-person committee to a nine-person committee, the Belchertown Selectboard opted to add two members to the Fire Chief Search Committee following feedback from residents.

Edward Fuller and Kevin Girard were appointed to the board by a majority vote in the meeting on Monday night. Selectboard members Nick O'Connor and Ed Boscher voted against the motion.

Selectboard Chair Gail Gramarossa said she received "lengthy descriptions of con-

cerns" from members of the community.

"We got a number of emails, calls...I want to make note of the fact several of the people who contacted me prefaced their comments with 'I don't normally do this, but this has me really dis-

See SEARCH, page 12 •

Stone cold fox



PHOTO BY AILEEN GILDEA-PYNE

Belchertown resident Aileen Gildea-Pyne took a photo of this fox last week, which she said, "capturing the essence of a winter sunny warmth's bliss."

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STAFF REPORT

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EDUCATION

School Com reorganizes

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff report

GRANBY – Following the addition of a new member to the School Committee, the group reorganized, electing a new Vice Chair and subcommittee designations.

The School Committee's Chair is Jennifer Bartosz and newly elected vice chair, Stephanie Parent.

Bartosz took over this month after the previous chair Emre Evren stepped down from his position. The Granby Selectboard then appointed Jill Pelletier to the committee to serve until the spring election, when she will need to run for reelection.

Subcommittees

At its meeting on Feb. 16, the School Committee also reorganized the Superintendent Search Committee, Finance Subcommittee and others. Bartosz moved to the Finance Subcommittee and stepped down from the Superintendent Search Committee.

"Emre was on the Finance Subcommittee and before him Mike Simpson was on the Finance Subcommittee when we created it, so we have this precedent that the chair be on the Finance Subcommittee," Bartosz said. "We need to have a meeting to get going and I feel like it makes sense at this point for me to move to the committee."

With Bartosz taking on the Finance Subcommittee, Pelletier volunteered to take her position on the Policy Subcommittee.

Bartosz also stepped down from the Superintendent Search Committee because otherwise there would be three School Committee members on the committee, constituting a quorum.

"I can be a backup if someone can't make it," she said.

School Committee members Audrey Siudak and Pelletier will be the members of the committee.

"That does leave one member down for the Superintendent Search Committee, so do we ask for volunteers from parents

See SCHOOL, page 5 •



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Subscriptions

\$31 per year pre-paid
(\$36 out of state)

WEB

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COMMUNITY

New QH chamber CEO Surprise

QHCC's new VP/CEO focuses on survival first, then growth

MICHAEL HARRISON
mharrison@turley.com



REGION — As businesses and residents look forward to an economic rebound, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce recently hired a new Vice President and CEO to help position its more than 250 members to grow their businesses once restrictions are lifted and consumer confidence returns.

Andrew Surprise started the job about a month ago. It's a part-time position for now, though that could change as chamber members regain their footing and start planning for the future.

"The chamber was hurt like everyone else with the downturn in the economy and so we're hoping that eventually within the next year the position can be full-time, because there's a lot of need for somebody to help," he said.

A native of Springfield and East Longmeadow who was educated locally, earning a degree in political science from Western New England University, Surprise has a background in business, public relations, marketing, and branding. Once an intern for former Gov. Jane Swift, he made his reputation as a political consultant and campaign staffer — including work that helped a candidate win a West Springfield mayoral race — as well as marketing and fundraising for not-for-profits and civic advocacy training.

He served two recent terms on the Westfield City Council and still resides in Westfield, close to his immediate family.

"COVID took its toll on many local small businesses and our chamber was not left off that list," QHCC President Lena Buteua said.

"However, during this time, the QHCC Executive Board dug in its heels hard by spending count-

less hours dedicated to the chamber's survival in order to ensure our member community had our help and support when they needed it most. The Executive Board clearly understood that in order for the chamber to continue our mission and vision focus for 2021, we had to hire someone with the same mindset and who had the experience and connections to make it all come together. We were extremely fortunate to have found Andrew Surprise and honestly could not have asked for anyone more qualified."

With his blended background in the public and private sectors, Surprise said he knows how government can be a friend to business — and how it can get in the way. In addition to outreach and advocacy, a big part of his focus is bringing government officials, business leaders, and residents together to discuss their concerns and find ways to work in the best interests of all.

Addressing zoning issues, taxes, planning, and emphasizing a symbiotic relationship between the public education and business communities are all included in his immediate plans for the QHCC.

"I absolutely am open to issue advocacy right now," Surprise said.

Zoning might seem like an intimidating bureaucratic maze to most people, but those types of laws can have a lasting impact on a community. They can be a key to opening economic growth.

"Having come from being a city councilor, I can tell you zoning

needs to change," Surprise said.

"Obviously, it's up to the community what they want to do with it. But certainly, zoning has been a huge issue for municipalities all over the state. There were some changes to the zoning laws recently making it easier for lower-income housing. I know a lot of communities do have concerns about that, but I would say that in particular, in those rural areas, the zoning does matter, particularly farmland. If it's not zoned correctly, someone who owns land in a rural area may be paying more taxes than they need to be paying. And that's certainly something that the chamber can work on with those communities to make sure that the zoning regulations are in line with what their community wants to develop. And certainly coming from government myself, I do have some knowledge of that."

Struggling to survive

At the top of the agenda is finding ways to help chamber members stay afloat while riding out the pandemic, such as connecting them with public grants and other assistance.

"You'd be surprised what five thousand dollars or ten thousand dollars can mean to a small business proprietor," Surprise said.

"It helps keep the lights on for another month and helps pay the rent. Those small amounts really do matter to our small businesses."

He said the chamber also wants to make sure elected officials are aware of the business community's needs going forward.

"That's what we're working on right now," Surprise said.

"We're currently putting together a plan and, coming from the political sphere, one thing I know as a former elected official is that elected officials don't necessarily take notice of an issue unless somebody tells them about it. And once they know there's a problem, they can work to fix it. I contacted some of our state legislators. There are some I still have to engage with, but we've got the majority of the delegation that serves the region coming to our virtual leg-

islative meeting," set for Friday, Feb. 26 (see below for details).

"And we're hoping to do this at least two or three times a year going forward — hopefully in person," Surprise said.

"The goal is just to engage with the business community, with our legislators, and see what they think is going to happen. There's still a lot of uncertainty, at least in the general public and in the business community. And it's hard for businesses to make plans when they don't know necessarily what's going to happen in the next two or three months, let alone the next year. I did ask them to bring some information on any potential grants, programs, or government services that especially can assist the small business community because that's who's really suffering."

Looking ahead

Once the economy stabilizes and the focus shifts to growing existing businesses and attracting new ones, Surprise said he wants to help the chamber explore new opportunities for the communities' members it serves, such as manufacturing. That includes forging partnerships with school systems and emphasizing vocational training so a skilled workforce is in place whenever new jobs are created.

"One thing I want to focus on is regional economic development," Surprise said.

"Something I've discussed with (chamber) board members is we would like to have more engagement with the local school districts, particularly vocational education because it's going to be very important going forward. Vocational education should not be looked down on — it's just a different form of education, and I would hope that whatever these communities do, they do put resources into that type of education because the future workforce is going to require people to be able to fix the machines. They need a technical workforce. And that's why

See CHAMBER, page 3 •



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To be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an After Glow of

smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo

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Of happy times and laughing times

And bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve

To dry before the sun

Of happy memories that I leave

When Life is done.

Missed Always by
Family and Friends

Belchertown stays in yellow

MELINA BOURDEAU

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown continues to be in the state's yellow designation, remaining about the same compared to last week.

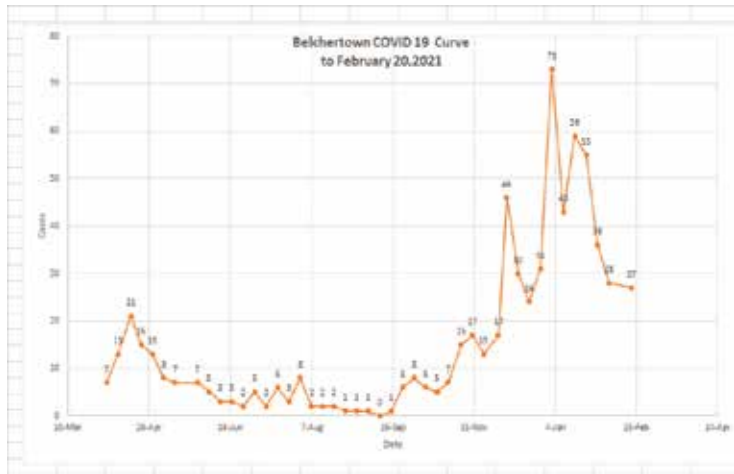
There were 27 confirmed cases of COVID-19 for the week of Sunday, Feb. 14 to Saturday, Feb. 20, according to the Quabbin Health District. There were zero deaths during the weekly period, so the total remains at 16 people who died due to COVID-19.

There have been a total of 678 cases to date in Belchertown.

In the previous two-week period, from Feb. 6 to Feb. 13 there were 21 new cases of COVID-19. There was one death during that period.

From Sunday, Feb. 14 to Saturday, Feb. 20, there were 1,027 tests performed and the total number of tests is 26,076.

The town has remained in the same color designation, yellow.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The current case positivity rate is 2.44% and last week's rate was 3.38%, according to data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the period of Jan. 31 to Feb. 13.

The rate per 100,000 is 19.6

for this two-week period and last week was 27.1.

Based on the DPH's color coded metric system, a town in the yellow designation has 23 cases of COVID-19 and a 5% or lower positivity rate.

BJC seeks art submissions

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Justice Collaborative is excited to announce their next community project! “Loud and Proud: Identity, Culture and Community” is a public community centered art project all about celebrating the complex and diverse identities.

This project will include two parts—murals painted on electrical boxes in town, and a “Pride Zine” (and online magazine). But, to make these projects happen, the BJC is seeking the community's help and input.

This project will be two community art collaborations—painted electrical boxes and a magazine that will be shared online. Both art collaborations will be made up entirely of art produced by community members to honor and share their voices.

Community members are

asked to submit art, photographs, writing and materials that they want to see included in a magazine or on a mural. Once you submit the BJC will select finalists, and then the town will have a chance to vote for what images or words they want to see put on the boxes.

Those who want to submit art should find the Belchertown Justice Collaborative on Facebook, or email btownjusticecollab@gmail.com.

This project will be finished and released in June of 2021 as a way to honor the anniversary of the BJC's first event, and as a way to celebrate queer pride month.

The group can be found on Facebook, instagram (@btownjustice), or via email at btownjusticecollab@gmail.com.

The deadline to submit designs is April 1.

CHAMBER • from page 2

I say it's an extraordinarily important component of development.”

In addition to local school systems, Surprise said he wants to work with regional colleges like his alma mater, Western New England University, which developed a top pharmaceutical program, and Springfield Technical Community College to develop a school-to-work pipeline that could entice tech companies to relocate to Western Mass.

“Obviously, we'd love to see some of the technology businesses in Boston out this way,” he said, adding that “deep tech” entrepreneurs are finding capital from public-private partnerships driving economic growth in various places.

If it's working out elsewhere, why not here, Surprise wonders.

“It's fledgling technologies or

technologies that launch different industries and different sectors. They're really putting investment in entrepreneurs that have an idea. And I'm hoping that's something we can do and I'm going to ask our legislators if we can tie some of those rounds of funding to our area,” he said.

“So if you're willing to start your business here, you'll be able to access this funding. That's one area we're looking at.”

Mentoring and planning

Among the ways the QHCC can help members is by teaching marketing skills to those who need it, including direct mail. That may seem an analog approach in a digital world, but Surprise said it is still an effective tool for any business. Likewise for networking and cross-promoting. He and the chamber also want to make it easier for those with an entrepreneurial spirit

to get started by leveraging services offered by the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

The local chapter of SCORE is affiliated with STCC and helps teach business basics to those who have a skill, product or idea, but lack the background to monetize it. Writing a business plan might seem prohibitive to many would-be business owners, but just about everyone needs one to secure a loan or grant.

“They help businesses or entrepreneurs write a business plan, or maybe it's knowledge of book-keeping that's needed or marketing,” Surprise said.

“I've seen a lot of businesses come and go because they didn't know what they were doing. They just decided all of a sudden, ‘I would like to start a business.’ There's more to it than that and SCORE helps entrepreneurs learn

how to run a business.”

The chamber wants to work with municipalities on long-term planning and growth strategies. For instance, creating a cultural district could mean eligibility for targeted public and private funding while nurturing a tourism base that benefits existing businesses.

“Another thing we talked about is training for the certified associate in project management exam and being able to help people pass that exam because that benefits large and small businesses alike,” Surprise said.

“And the same thing with marketing. We'd love to have training on Facebook, Instagram, Google ads, things like that.”

Buteau, the QHCC president, said with Surprise only about a month into the job, she's already impressed.

“Andrew is committed to per-

sonally getting to know our members and what their needs are,” she said.

“He is looking forward to sharing his extensive knowledge and experience with them by providing them help, direction, and connections to get back on their feet or enhance their success.”

Want to go?

The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding a Virtual Legislative Coffee event to connect local businesses with their state-level elected officials. It will be held 12:30 to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, and will be streamed live on YouTube, Facebook, and on the QHCC website.

This is a free event for members and non-members. To register, go to qhma.com. For more information, email Andrew Surprise at andrew@qhma.com or call 413-283-2418.

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A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Select Board's Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.



ANNUAL CEMETERY CLEANING NOTIFICATION

The Department of Public Works, Maintenance Division will be conducting the annual removal of ALL seasonal decorations within the Towns' Cemeteries. For anyone wishing to retrieve personal graveside items, please do so before March 15, 2021.

**All items will be removed beginning
March 15, 2021.**

GRANBY

Chamber launches Business Assistance Grant program

DALTON ZBIERSKI
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley & Granby Chamber is back at it, this time offering local businesses an exciting new grant opportunity.

The Business Assistance Grant program will offer up to \$2,000 to local, qualifying businesses to help offset the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The deadline to apply is Feb. 26 at 5 p.m.

“We have a total of \$25,000 that was allocated to us from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism,” said Chamber President Michelle Theroux. “We’ve been awarded the \$25,000 that we are dispersing in \$2,000 increments. Each chamber is making up their own requirements based off of their community and eligibility.”

The local chamber is working alongside the Greater

Northampton Chamber of Commerce, which has taken the lead on the initiative. All Hampshire County chambers are working in coalition with the Northampton operation.

“The way we are looking at it is to do a little bit larger of a grant, to be selective and really hone into our membership,” said Theroux.

To apply for funding, one can visit <http://form.jotform.com/210264675675058>. Applicants must provide basic information pertinent to their business, contact information and how their operation has been affected by the pandemic.

Grant money can be spent on a variety of expenses ranging from payroll to rent to equipment, if it’s not duplicative of other chamber-related funding, said Theroux.

The pandemic has challenged local businesses and the chamber itself, which has operated virtually since COVID-19 reached Hampshire County last March. Theroux has been moved by the resiliency of her members and the chamber’s board.

“I think, in normal times, being a small chamber isn’t always beneficial, but in times like these, we are really able to wrap around our members and support them,” said Theroux.

Meeting the needs of its members and maintaining a strong sense of community are among the chamber’s top priorities, as businesses suffer decreased profits, resulting from state-mandated restrictions that are in place.

“That’s what this past year has really been about; assessing the need and being able to come together to do what we need to do. That’s been paramount for us to really still be successful,” said Theroux.

On Feb. 2, the chamber hosted its annual meeting virtually. After formal business was completed, participants were encouraged to sit back, enjoy a drink and partake in a series of skits performed by Happier Valley Comedy, a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading joy throughout western Massachusetts.

During the improv show, participants interacted with the comedians by using the chat feature on Zoom. Theroux believes the show was a smashing success.

“We got a lot of feedback that it was funny,” she said.



ARCHIVE PHOTO
Michelle Theroux, President of the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce, poses with Santa Claus during the reimagined Holiday Stroll on Dec. 6, 2020.

“People engaged in something different, something new; we’re all looking for something new to break up the day. When you have a business meeting, why not keep that part short and have the rest of the folks come together and relax.”

The chamber was established in 1959 in South Hadley and eventually extended its reach to Granby. Throughout the decades, the chamber has stayed true to its mission of helping to promote and grow local businesses.

Although cumbersome, the COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed its roll. Theroux anticipates a return to normalcy when the weather warms and vaccinations become more commonplace.

“We’re hoping to do something come spring and summer when we’re able to get outdoors and, hopefully, get back to networking and things that are much harder to do in a virtual environment. I think people will be wanting to get together safely,” said Theroux.

CHIEF • from page 1

advertisements for police chiefs.

“They’re fairly simple, there was one for a community our size, there was one for a medium sized community. I will try to draft a want-ad in accordance and then get it into the board for its approval prior to putting it out for publication,” he said.

Regarding the selection process, Selectboard Chair Glenn Sexton said he feels the Selectboard will be able to conduct the search.

“My feeling on this is that this board can take this on and I think we can do it well,” Sexton said. “Instead of us going to an outside source to have it done, I’d like to keep it ‘in house’ with this board. Similarly to the current fire

chief we have, so it’s open for discussion.”

Joyce said he wanted to get the best qualified candidate either in or out of the department.

Selectboard member Jennifer Silva said she agreed the three Selectboard members were capable of hiring the new chief.

“We have experience with hiring and you, Glenn, have experience in the law enforcement subject, so I believe we can manage this in house,” she said.

The Granby Selectboard has historically appointed a police chief, which occurred for at least the last two police chiefs, Martin said in an interview on Wednesday.

“Without a search committee in place, the Selectboard will need to conduct its interviews in open session,” Martin said, adding that he would check with the town’s lawyer to confirm.

Sexton said the board will begin planning the timeline at its next meeting on March 1.

“We’ll decide how long the ad will be posted for, applications, resumes that are in, set up interviews – set up a whole timeframe about when we want this process completed,” Sexton said. “I would hope we would have a new chief in place sometimes in March.”

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A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Selectmen’s Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

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■ GRANBY

Granby Library offers remote pastel painting workshop for adults

GRANBY – The Granby Free Public Library will host award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack to present an adult hands-on workshop, “Pastel Paint the Miracle Flowers,” on Thursday, March 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.

This Zoom pastel painting workshop is designed for sheer beginners to experienced artists. Please call 413-467-3320 to pre-register and get your imagery. Participants will be provided pastels, white charcoal pencils, template and pastel paper, in this fun pastel painting workshop.

In this two-hour workshop, participants have fun producing their own pastel painting inspired by Georgia O’Keeffe’s enormous mural, The Miracle Flower, which Elizabeth Arden, the cosmetics mogul, commissioned her to paint in 1936.

The group will extract from The Miracle Flower two flowers from the original six by seven foot flower painting, and pastel paint our own wonderful creation on paper in reds and whites, with

greens and blues for background. Maichack will demonstrate again how beginners to accomplished artists can pastel paint easily using techniques of masters such as O’Keeffe. All will keep their 12 by 18 pastel paintings.

Maichack’s workshops have been so well-liked, many libraries and senior centers have booked and rebooked him, often twice a year.

“What I heard through students’ comments reflects a teaching style that is rare: encouraging, positive and constructive, with information given in a style that students find approachable, accessible, and clear,” wrote Melinda Georgeson, Director of Education, Norman Rockwell Museum.

Maichack lives in Holyoke. He is a portraitist and painter working primarily in pastels. Winner of the Award of Merit from the Bennington Center for the Arts: Impressions of New England Show 2003, he also was awarded the Savoir-faire Pastel Award from the Great Lakes Pastel

Society. Maichack was commissioned by Westfield State College to paint the pastel portrait of the past president of Westfield State College, Doctor Frederick Woodward, which was unveiled at the dedication of the Woodward Center. He has been in many national juried shows and was awarded numerous Massachusetts Cultural Council grants. In addition to portraiture, his still lifes and landscapes are represented by galleries from Kennebunkport, Maine to San Francisco, California. Maichack is accepting requests to do portraits, and various commissions to do pastel paintings. Please call 413-532-3667 or e-mail Maichack at EmJay7@aol.com. Visit his new web site at www.GregoryMaichack.com.

Maichack has been a faculty member of the Museum Studio School in the Fine Arts Museum Quadrangle in Springfield; and taught at Holyoke and Greenfield Community Colleges, Westfield State University, East Works, and the Guild, Northampton.

Free introduction to manufacturing offered

Unemployed due to COVID-19 targeted

EILEEN KENNEDY
Staff writer

COVID-19 has torn through the economy as companies had to dial back their services or products in the wake of the pandemic, change their business models and furlough or lay off employees left and right to make it. Others just shut down entirely. While some people have been able to find work, there are plenty of workers who haven’t been able to, and the state wants to help.

For those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and remain unemployed, the MassHire Career Centers in Holyoke and Springfield are offering free virtual manufacturing training classes. They will help participants learn about career manufacturing, basic manufacturing standards, manufacturing processes, basic blueprint reading, quality control processes and tips on teamwork. The career centers used to be known as the state’s One-Stop Shop for employment needs for those looking for work and employers.

Participants must have a high school diploma, Internet connectivity with streaming capability, be unemployed due to COVID-19 and have a device such as a laptop, desktop computer or tablet to access the internet. It is also compatible with cell phones. Instructor coaching is also provided.

“The last two governors have been very invested in what they can do to maintain or grow manufacturing as an industry in general,” said MassHire Career Center Holyoke President and CEO David Gadaire said.

With COVID-19 translating to job losses for many, it was decided to target those who have lost their jobs as layoffs and business closures began last March as restaurants, gyms and

other businesses were temporarily closed and then able to start up in reduced capacities, he said.

“We think many people wrongly have this picture of what manufacturing is all about, with idea that it’s dirty,” he said. “But many manufacturers have pristine processes, for which mathematics is needed and their manufacturing is really a science.”

He said starting wages are good and it’s possible to make a sustainable wage and move through company ranks to get ahead.

“The classes are a guide, to counsel them as to what to expect in manufacturing, the kind of math needed and so they candidly will know what’s going on,” he said. “It’s also designed to get people off unemployment and help them move into what could be a good career.”

The classes are self-paced and offer tips on who work as a team member, how to address concerns that come up on the manufacturing floor and problem resolution, Gadaire said.

Businessman Joseph Peters, a member of MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, has been in manufacturing for decades, and decided to test drive the classes to be sure potential students would get useful information about manufacturing if they took them.

“It provides exposure to manufacturing machines, safety protocols among other things,” said Peters, who owned Universal Plastics in Holyoke up to a few years ago, and who remains active in the company. “I think someone who has gone through this would be looked at differently than someone who hadn’t taken it when it comes to the hiring process. I would be much more interested in someone who had taken this course. Our company is looking for people right now and this would give someone a lot of advantages.”

See **FREE INTRO**, page 12 •

Virtual concert fundraiser to support Granby resident

GRANBY – Held Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m., a virtual “night of music, art and dance” will benefit Supporting Kathy’s Journey, a small group of friends and family who have organized to financially support Granby resident Kathy Charland as she battles rare, seri-

ously illnesses.

This is a non-ticketed event with exciting and engaging performances, including rock, jazz, gospel, dance and visual art, plus the opportunity to learn more about Charland and the conditions she faces.

More information on the event and participating artists can be found of the Supporting Kathy’s Journey Facebook page. The event will be available to watch free on Facebook and YouTube. Visit supportingkathysjourney.weebly.com/events to learn more.

SCHOOL • from page 1

and staff? Or do we feel we have enough members of the committee to absorb the loss,” Bartosz said.

“We didn’t have two school committee members be a part of it to begin with,” Siudak said. “It just happened that way.”

Interim Superintendent Carol Hepworth said the position previ-

ously held by Pelletier was an East Meadow School parent.

“I wonder how far you’re in, catching people up, that’s the only thing,” Hepworth said.

Granby Public Schools Business Director Adam Tarquini said the committee sets the parameters of the committee.

“I don’t think we’re that far into it where we wouldn’t be able to

catch somebody up, but at the same point, I think we’re okay moving forward with the committee we have,” he said.

The committee offered an East Meadow School parent email Siudak at asiudak@granbyschools-ma.net if they are interested in filling the vacancy, which the committee will take up at its next meeting.

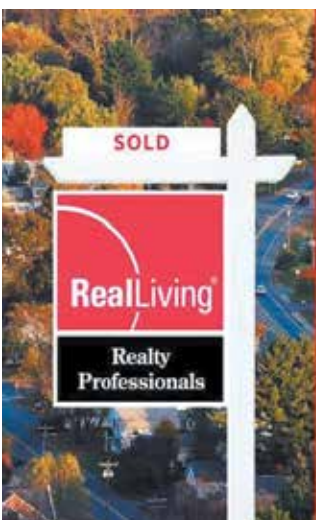


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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Milk jug seed starting part 2

This week we will delve into part 2 of the great milk jug seed starting experiment, posed by Barbara who wrote in last week wondering if I have had any success with this trendy technique.

Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a “hinge.”

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant. There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath.

Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist seed starting mix. ‘Coast of Maine’ has recently become my favorite after a few years of trying out new brands. With the soil in place, sow your seeds. If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don’t cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly on top and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down. How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage. For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out. Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won’t smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed. The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal. January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment. Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as “stratification needed,” “sow in the fall,” or other terms.

You can begin to sow cold hardy annuals in March—think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like, while April should be reserved for warmth-lovers like pepper, tomato, basil, zinnias and marigolds, paying special attention to frost predictions and bringing these plants in as needed.

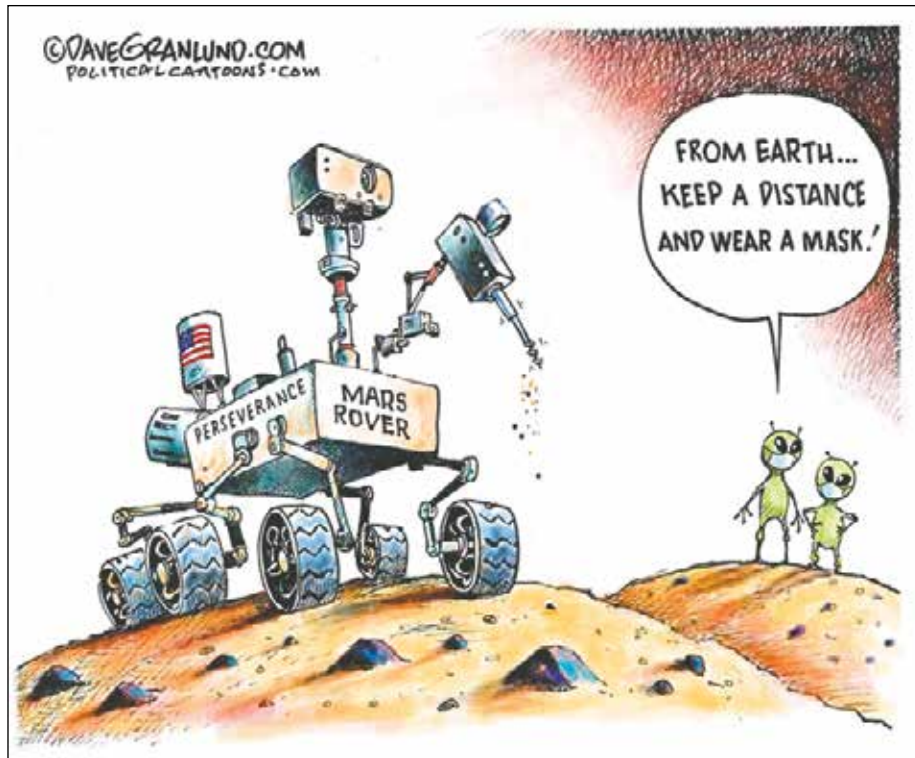
Well Barbara, thank you for the great topic! I promise to give this method a try and will report back my successes and failures.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid



In My Backyard

ELLENOR DOWNER

I received an email from a Brookfield resident, who had a Coopers hawk perched in a tree in his yard for about two hours on Feb. 3. He also include a photo of the hawk.

The Coopers hawk is about 16 inches long and has a long narrow tail. The adult is blue gray above, light below with reddish-brown barring. Its crown is darker than the back. The immature is dark brown above, light below with thin brown streaks and keeps the immature plumage for a year.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark spots in a platform nest of sticks and lined with bark placed in a tree. During breeding season, it has regular feeding routes where it hunts for common medium sized birds like mourning doves, blue jays and starlings. In winter, it may show up at bird feeders.

Starlings and suet cakes

I also received an email from a woman, who had starlings come to her homemade suet. Here is the recipe for the suet.

HOMEMADE WILD BIRD SUET

prep time 10 minutes and cook time 15 minutes

Ingredients

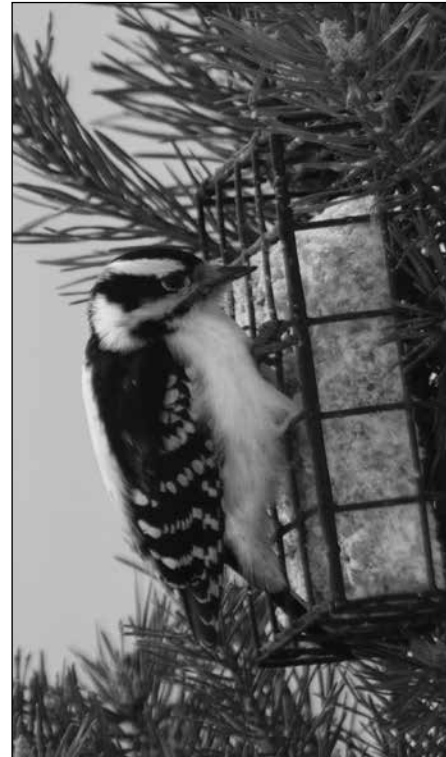
½ cup rendered fat or lard
2 cup old-fashioned oats (not instant)
2 cups chunky peanut butter
2 cups beef broth
½ cup sugar
½ cup raisins/dried cranberries or chopped nuts (optional)
1 ½ cup wild bird seed
Squares of wax paper (to put between sliced cakes for storage)

Instructions

In a large pot, combine lard, oatmeal, peanut butter, broth and sugar stirring frequently.

Heat to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Simmer for 20 minutes or so or until mixture is the consistency of thick oatmeal. Stir in raisins and /or nuts. Remove from heat and stir in bird seed. Pour into mold and put in freezer, cooling until hardened.

Once hardened, remove suet “brick”



from freezer and allow it to soften slightly to ease in cutting.

Store thawed cakes in refrigerator for up to one week or refreeze with a sheet of wax paper in between.

Note: This recipe is not practical for the hot summer months, where the cake will turn rancid quickly, but it is great during the winter months when it will maintain its freshness and shape.

Bluebirds

I received an email from an Oakham resident. He said, “I’ve lived her by Dean Pond for more than 35 years and have never, ever seen a bluebird in my yard, but today (Feb. 13), three male bluebirds were at my suet feeder.” He also said, “I’ve had a bluebird house in my yard for years and the only occupants I can remember were flying squirrels.”

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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SENTINEL

The *Sentinel* is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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EDUCATION

Belchertown seniors featured in Q and A

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN — Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux has begun featuring a member of the Class of 2021 in a question and answer survey about their tenure in the school.

Each of the seniors featured decorated a cap sharing their future plans and they have also answered questions about their experiences at “the Nest,” the school community of Belchertown Public Schools.

These seniors will be featured in the Sentinel as well.

Sarrina Smith

What are your future plans?

My future plans right now are to go to one of the schools I was accepted into for nursing and become a registered nurse. After working in the field for a bit, I want to go back to school to become a nurse practitioner.

What is your favorite memory from the nest?

My favorite memory from the nest would probably have to be our junior year (our last ... sadly) spirit assembly. Finally our entire class came together and showed more spirit than we ever had before. It was so much fun to dress up and just support each other.

What advice do you have for our younger Orioles?



COURTESY PHOTO

I think my advice to younger Orioles would be to live in the moment. I know it sounds corny, but it really is important. Don't worry about what your classmates might say or think about you, dress up for spirit assemblies or study hard for the test! Do what makes you happy. You only have four years here, it flies by, so make it count!

What is your proudest moment as an Oriole?

My proudest moment as an Oriole would be getting Pro Merito. It just shows that all my work these past few years has totally paid off and it makes it all worth it!

College NOTES

Maxim Caron named to College of the Holy Cross' fall 2020 Dean's List

WORCESTER — Maxim Caron of Belchertown, was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2020 Dean's List. A member of the Class of 2023, Caron is majoring in History.

Caron was among more than 1,453 students named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Springfield College announces Dean's List additions

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College has named the following students from Belchertown, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester.

Rachel Drummond, a Health Science/Pre-Physician Assistant major.

Sonia Dugger, a Health Science major.

Elisha Wenc, a Business Management major.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incom-

pletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

University of Central Florida announces local student on Dean's List

ORLANDO, FL — Kathryn Zawistowski has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020. The Dean's List is compiled in recognition of scholastic honors to degree-seeking undergraduate students who earn a minimum 3.4 GPA and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Northeastern University announces Fall Semester 2020 Dean's List

BOSTON — Northeastern University is pleased to recognize those students who distinguish themselves academically during the course of the school year. The following local students were recently named to the University's dean's list for the Fall semester, which ended in December 2020.

Amherst resident James Kostas, majoring in biochemistry.

Amherst resident Justin Guaytanof, majoring in cell and molecular biology.

Amherst resident Peter Treyz, majoring in economics/business administration.

Amherst resident Timothy Demling, majoring in mathematics.

Amherst resident Amanda Dee, majoring in bioengineering.

Amherst resident Omi Johnson, majoring in comp sci/cognitive psychology. To achieve the dean's list distinction, students must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.5 or greater out of a possible 4.0 and carry no single grade lower than a C- during the course of their college career. Each student receives a letter of commendation and congratulation from their college dean.

Gaeul Kang named to Dean's List at Georgia Tech for the Fall 2020 Semester

ATLANTA, GA — Gaeul Kang of Belchertown, made the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology is in the business of Creating the Next: the next idea, the next technology, and the next legion of agile minds well-equipped to imagine and engineer our future. Nearly 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled, and Georgia Tech is ranked in the nation's top 10 public universities by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, visit gatech.edu.

Belchertown children's meals program menu

For the week of
March 1 to March 5.

Note: Tuesday through Thursday are small meal kit items
Monday

Breakfast: Banana bread and 100% fruit juice.

Lunch: French toast sticks, sausage, yogurt, sweet potato fries. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: cereal with yogurt.

Tuesday
(Small Meal Kits come home)

Breakfast: apple frudel and fruit.

Lunch: Oriole chicken bowl (chicken, corn and mashed potatoes with gravy) and dinner roll. Kindergarten through sixth grade

alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.

Wednesday - Curbside Meal Kit Pickup at BHS 11 a.m. from 1 p.m.

Remote learning day, no in school meals.

Thursday

Breakfast: mini-waffles and fruit.

Lunch: New England chicken salad in a cup, goldfish and baby carrots. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: turkey sandwich.

Friday - Small meal kits come home and orders due today for next week.

Breakfast: cereal and 100%

fruit juice.

Lunch: cheese pizza, steamed vegetables and school-baked cookies. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.

Note

Pre-k and Kindergarten will offer a daily in-school alternative choice: Muffin, yogurt, vegetable, fruit, and milk.

Grades 1 through 6 will offer a daily in-school alternate choice: Sunbutter and Jelly sandwich, vegetable, fruit and milk.

Grades 7 to 12 will offer daily in-school alternative choices: pizza station, deli bar and pre-made salads.

Students of the Quarter

BELCHERTOWN — The following students earned Student of the Quarter Award at JBMS during the second academic quarter. Teachers nominated and selected the students. The students had to earn 70s or above in all their classes, and they had to demonstrate outstanding responsibility during the second quarter.

Seventh graders

Noah Couture, Jaden Bean, Edith Audette, Izzy Haggerty, Destiny Ranzie, Layla Liminski,

Nathan Marino, Isabel Moreau, Eric Hawkins, Laila Hurlburt, Hanna Smolinski, Adam O'Rourke, Camryn Scoon and Cooper Hampson.

Eighth graders

Liam Chien, Liam Spraggon, Reagan Sullivan, Benjamin Les, Trent Harper, Alex Leahy, Evan Foskit-Nulph, Brian Fuller, Kanyinsola Okuwobi, Jillian DeBarge, Aubrey Harrington, Addison Sullivan, Luke Bergeron, Lucia Hellyar, Maggie Ryczek and Nicolas Rettura.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Feb. 10 through Feb. 16. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 260 calls police responded to, there were 10 incidents, six accidents, two arrest/summons and three citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, Feb. 13

11:53 a.m. – A 54-year-old Arlington woman was charged with operating with a suspended license. While on patrol on Jabish St. an officer performed a check on the registration of a vehicle. When the record came back, it was found the operator's license was suspended. The officer initiated a stop of the vehicle. The operator was identified and was issued a criminal citation. The car was towed from the scene.

11:14 p.m. – A 52-year-old Belchertown man was charged with assault and battery on a family/household member. Officers responded to report of a domestic disturbance.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 10

7:50 a.m. – Officers returned a phone call to an individual involved in a past hit and run. The party was at a relative's house and when officers responded, they observed damage to front quarter side. The operator reported they were waiting to turn left into the Dunkin Donuts on Federal St when a vehicle that was waiting to turn right in the northbound lane passed on their driver's side. The operator struck and damaged the calling party's vehicle. The driver than drove away, there is no other information at this time.

8:10 a.m. – Officers spoke with an individual who reported a possible violation of a restraining order. The report was concerning a post made to a Facebook page. An officer consulted with the DA office and it was determined a violation had not taken place.

12:10 p.m. – Officers responded to North Main St for a report of a disturbance. The calling party reported they heard yelling from Jackson St. Officers located the reporting party who said they were on a walk when they saw their neighbor. The neighbor then confronted the reporting party about a Facebook post. The two parties exchanged words, and the reporting party was pushed into the snow. The officer reported they could see there was disturbed snow. The officer spoke with the involved party. The two were informed it was a civil matter and were told to apply for a harassment order.

4:10 p.m. – Officers responded to a two-car accident on George Hannum Rd. The operator of the first vehicle said they were in line of traffic heading east under the railroad underpass. The vehicle started to move forward when vehicle in front of them went under and stopped to yield. They were rear ended by the vehicle behind them. The operator of the second vehicle said moved forward and while adjusting their mirror. No injuries were reported. There was no tow.

Thursday, Feb. 11

1:24 p.m. – A vehicle parked in parking area of the Lake Metacomet Boat ramp was involved in a hit and run. The vehicle was unoccupied when there was damage. The second vehicle was attempting to back out of a space when it made contact to the left bumper. The operator left a note with their information because the vehicle was unoccupied.

1:47 p.m. – Officers responded to silent 911 call. There was no answer when officers tried to call back. The officers responded to the residence and checked around the house. All the doors and windows were locked. The officers attempted to make contact the owner. The Fire Department was contacted to get entry into the residence. The officers checked inside and no one was there. A note was left to the homeowner and a voicemail was left on the owners cell phone.

Friday, Feb. 12

9:55 a.m. – Officers responded to an accident on George Hannum Rd. The operator leaned across their seat to get their wallet and the vehicle swerved into the other lane. The vehicle struck a telephone pole. The operator declined medical attention.

Saturday, Feb. 13

9:54 a.m. – Officers spoke with a party about a report of identity fraud. Their info was hacked into. The reporting party was contacted their phone company and answered the questions, finding that someone switched their account to a different sim card. The reporting party noticed there was an attempted charge to their credit card. The caller wanted a report on file documenting the incident.

1:46 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

10:20 p.m. – A caller reported a person at a group home was reported missing. The person attempted to make contact with their relatives. A missing person report was completed. A relative called around 11:45 p.m. saying a person called another relative and they were able to reach the relative who was supposedly missing. The missing person was removed from the listing and their whereabouts were reported to the reporting party.

Monday, Feb. 15

12:23 a.m. – Officers responded to a report of a fire. The Belchertown emergency communication center got report

of a structure fire on Turkey Hill Rd initiated a box alarm. Three engines, a tanker and an ambulance responded to the scene. A two story residential structure with an attached office space was on fire. There were heavy fire conditions in the second-floor bedroom. The incident required a mutual aid ambulance from Ludlow and a tanker from Granby Fire Department. There was \$250,000 in damage, and three people were left homeless. The fire was discovered by an occupant of the residence. The party heard the alarm, grabbed a fire extinguisher, but the room became too hot and too smoky to do put out the fire. The origin floor in bedroom and the cause was accidental.

9:36 a.m. – Officers responded to a residence for a report of a vehicle with a broken rear window. The reporting party was at an appointment and when they returned hour later the rear window was broken. Nothing was missing from the vehicle. There were no objects in the area that could have been used to break the window. A report was taken.

6:53 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident at Daniel Shay's Highway and Allen Rd. One vehicle going east on Allen Rd was approaching the stop sign when a second vehicle heading south on Daniel Shay's Highway was struck by the first. The first vehicle was unable to stop due to the icy roadway, and struck the backside bumper of the second vehicle. The first vehicle crossed into the north bound lane on Daniel Shays. The second drove into a ditch by the northbound lane. The first vehicle ended up in the opposite side of the road. Both vehicles were towed form the scene. The Fire Department was toned and an ambulance responded but both parties refused treatment.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

5:51 a.m. – Officers responded to a one vehicle accident on Turkey Hill Rd. One vehicle travelling south on Turkey Hill Rd struck ice and lost control of the vehicle sliding into a vehicle travelling northbound. The vehicle also struck the guardrail, a mailbox and a tree turned 180 degrees and stopped facing north. The vehicle was towed from the scene. An ambulance was requested and transported one person to the hospital.

6:09 p.m. –An officer spoke with a party regarding an unauthorized transaction to their bank account. The person reported they noticed a charge they didn't recognize. Upon calling a number, they spoke with a male party who reported they were from a home inspection business out of Colorado and didn't do any business and there was no matching transaction. The reporting party was told it was some type of fraud. The party also got a call from an employee who said there was a problem with the account and go to their account to find further information. The scam was reported for documentation purposes.

Granby Police

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 272 calls for the week of Feb. 5 through Feb. 18. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Friday, Feb. 5

9 a.m. – Officers investigated an identity theft report.

10:31 a.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on West State St. No injuries were reported.

3:33 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident at South St and East St. No injuries were reported.

7:23 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Carver St. No injuries were reported.

Sunday, Feb. 7

1:20 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car accident on Carver St. Minor injuries were reported.

1:45 p.m. – Officers took a report of identity theft. The incident is still under investigation.

Monday, Feb. 8

5:30 a.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Chicopee St. The operator drove off the roadway and struck a tree. Injuries were reported.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

2:25 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident at Amherst St and Batchelor St. The operator drove off the roadway and struck a utility pole. No injuries were reported.

3:20 p.m. – Officers investigate motor vehicle accident on Chicopee St and School St. The operator drove off the roadway and caused property damage. Minor injuries were reported.

3:40 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident at East St and Morgan St. The operator drove off the roadway and struck a utility pole. No injuries were reported.

Friday, Feb. 12

12:23 p.m. – Officers investigated a two car accident on Amherst St. Injuries were reported.

11:53 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on East St. No injuries were reported.

Monday, Feb. 15

10:39 a.m. – Eric Remschneider, of 16 parish Hill Rd, Granby, was arrested on a warrant.

Thursday, Feb. 18

4:21 p.m. – Officers investigate report of identity theft.

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SPORTS

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PIONEERS DROP PAIR TO WOLVES



SPRINGFIELD – When the Pathfinder High School girls basketball team was finally able to take the court, they definitely showed signs of rust. The girls struggled in a pair of games Feb. 12 and 16 against Hampden Charter, losing 44-25 and 44-19. The Pioneers struggled to move the ball around the court and could not find its shooting. Pathfinder still has a pair of games against Ludlow before ending its shortened season.

Stephanie Koslik makes an off-balance shot.

Allyson Dube tries to dribble toward the sideline.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Stephanie Koslik gets a shot off ahead of coverage.

Allyson Dube extends on a shot.

FOOTBALL

High school football set to start next week

BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the vaccination effort is ongoing, there is still a need to make modifications to high school sports and football will be no different.

High school football games are finally set to commence next month and those that are able to watch games will not see a major difference in how the games are played other than what happens behind the scenes and on the sidelines.

Like all sports currently, football players will be required to wear face coverings. In the last couple of months, variants of COVID-19 coming from the United Kingdom and South Africa have resulted in a more contagious mutations of the virus. As a result, people have been advised to wear multiple or multi-layer face coverings now. The MIAA is not allowing gaiter face coverings, but are not currently requiring the multi-layer coverings. Football players wear full helmets with some also wearing splash guards. The guards are being encouraged as they provide an additional layer of protection.

Larger teams like Longmeadow, Central, and Holyoke will have limits to the number of players they can bring to the sideline. A maximum of just 45 players will be allowed to dress for games and be on the sidelines.

In many high school games, players are injured and unable to play, often wear their jerseys to the field and are on the sidelines to cheer on teammates. Those players will not be allowed in the Fall 2 season in order to limit the number of people on the sidelines of games. Only 45 players and a maximum of six coaches will be allowed on the sidelines along with other game personnel, like officials, the chain gang, and athletic trainers.

The 45 players on the sideline will be required to have face coverings at all time and must be socially distant from one another. The coin toss, which usually features multiple captains going to midfield, will only feature one player from coach team and the referee.

During games, when the action gets intense, players and coaches will often crowd the

See FOOTBALL, page 10 •

RACING

Outlaw open entry lists loading up for Icebreaker, Thompson 300

THOMPSON, Conn. — The Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park oval is shaping up as the place to watch the biggest stars of Tour-Type Modified Racing in 2021. Entry lists for both the Icebreaker 125 on April 10/11 and the return of the Thompson 300 on October 9/10 are already loaded with local, regional, and even national open-wheel racing headliners.

As the first and last events of the season at the historic Connecticut track, both the Icebreaker and the Thompson 300 are expected to be the year's two greatest shows. The early entries back up these expectations with a mix of touring series champions, track champions, and big-time winners in the Modified ranks. With so many top drivers ready for action, the buzz that has surrounded the events for months will only get louder.

Leading the roll call is six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby of Milford, CT. The modern Modified legend has filed entries for both the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 and the \$20,000-to-win Thompson 300.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Tom Morris racing is back this season.



Bobby Santos will look to compete in the upcoming Icebreaker race.

See RACE, page 13 •

SPORTS

MIAA official recognized for leadership by NFHS

FRANKLIN – The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) selected eight leaders in state high school associations to receive an NFHS Citation. This award honors individuals who have made contributions to the NFHS, state high school associations, athletic director and coaching professions, the officiating avocation and fine arts/performing arts programs. The NFHS Citation is one of the most prestigious achievements in high school athletics and performing arts.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is extremely proud to announce the NFHS 2021 Section 1 Citation recipient:

Sherry Bryant, associate executive director of the MIAA.

During her 30-year career at the Associations, Bryant has served as Financial Controller, Director of Human Resources, Technology Advancement Leader, and Liaison to a number of sport Committees including, Field Hockey, Basketball, Gymnastics, Skiing, Tennis, Softball, and co-liaison for Rugby. Bryant has also provided leadership through her service to the MIAA Tournament Management Committee, MIAA Blue Ribbon Committee on Gender Equity, the MIAA Covid-

19 Task Force, and MIAA Women and Girls Leadership initiatives. At the national level, she has served two terms on the NFHS Field Hockey Committee most recently as chair, is a leader in the NFHS/USA Field Hockey Advocacy Group, and has been appointed to the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee.

MIAA member, Field Hockey Committee Chair, Coach and retired Rockport High School Athletic Director Mary Ryan stated, “Sherry is hands-down the ultimate professional and so deserving of the NFHS Section 1 Citation. Her commitment, dedication and tireless work ethic on the local, state and national levels on behalf of our student-athletes, athletic directors and coaches is beyond reproach. I have the utmost respect and admiration for all that she does in the quest of Educational Athletics. I have been so fortunate to call her my colleague and friend.”

According to MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine, “Sherry Bryant’s 30-year service to the MIAA membership as well as being a key Senior Executive teammate has been outstanding. I am very pleased her contributions to our NFHS Section 1 colleagues and NFHS Association have been recognized and will be celebrated.”

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots.

The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

Nominees for volleyball hall announced

HOLYOKE – The list of 25 nominees for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame 2021 Induction has been announced and the Fan Vote presented by Mizuno is now officially open through Feb. 28.

Fans can vote daily for as many nominees as they feel are deserving of Induction. The top 5 nominees selected by the public will comprise a “fans’ ballot” that will be tallied along with the official selection committee ballots to pick the Class of 2021 inductees. “These 25 nominees represent 11 different countries and some of the biggest names in volleyball from the past two decades

and beyond.” said George Mulry, Executive Director of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. “Having to skip the 2020 class of Inductees because of COVID has created a bit of a backlog that’s resulted in perhaps the strongest list of nominees top to bottom we’ve ever had. I think it’s going to be really hard for people to narrow down their Fan Vote selections but it will also make this year’s Induction that much more special for the selected class.” The new class of Inductees will be announced in March and the 2021 Induction Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23 and will be live streamed

for anyone that cannot travel to Holyoke. Induction Celebration tickets will go on sale when the new class is announced.

The nominees are: Taismary Agüero, Dr. Rolf Andresen, Manuela Benelli, Gianfranco Briani, Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann, Dr. Gabriel Cherebetiu, Sergio Dutra Santos, Giovane Gavio, Linda Hanley, Barbara Jelic-Ruzic, Pieter Joon, Siegfried Kohler, Peter Lange, Andre Meyer, Samuele Papi, Carmelo Pittera, Bernardo Rezende, Todd Rogers, Yumilka Ruiz, Ricardo Santos, Clay Stanley, Sergey Tetyukhin, Logan Tom, Fernanda Venturini, and Elaine Youngs.

Semi-pro team continues to add talent

WORCESTER — The Massachusetts Pirates continue to bolster their depth chart at the wide receiver position. The organization has announced the signing of Alonzo Moore, who recently played in the AAF for the San Antonio Commanders and the XFL for the Seattle Dragons.

Moore (6’1”, 196 lbs) spoke with masspiratesfootball.com and believes he will fit in perfectly alongside other wide receivers

on the Pirates.

“I expect all of us to come in and compete. It’s good that the position is becoming more crowded. It allows for different skill sets with different players.” With the addition of Moore, Pirates president and general manager Jawad Yatim is happy with the way the Pirates offense is shaping up.

“Moore has big play ability, great combination of size and speed, and is a kid who can take

the top off the defense and open things up for us underneath and in the run game. He’s going to put pressure on defenses and we’re happy to have him. I’m looking forward to seeing our offense come together and get to work. I think we have a good unit here, now we have to begin building continuity and familiarity with the offense and one another and I know my coaches will lead these guys in the right direction.”

FOOTBALL • from page 9

sideline. This will not be allowed and will be strictly enforced. Referees are being instructed to assess penalties if warnings to be at least two yards away from the sideline are not adhered to.

There will be more time to account for the need for players to have water breaks and catch their breath. Timeouts are extended to two minutes long. Intermissions between quarters

will also be longer. Water breaks will also be instituted around the six-minute mark of each quarter, though referees can declare a water break around that time during a change of possession.

A schedule for the football season has yet to be released, though it has already been determined there will be no tournament. The same has applied to the fall and winter seasons.

A few athletic directors have already said traditional Friday night football is unlikely to occur

during the Fall 2 season due to the colder temperatures. Right now, nighttime temperatures are consistently in the 30’s, unlike the normal fall season where it is still much warmer until November.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon games are likely in order for players to be able to play some of the games in the sun and slightly warmer temperatures. The Fall 2 season will be continuing into April.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40 (Wetlands Protection Act) and the Belchertown Wetland Bylaw, the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing **virtually on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM.** The purpose of this meeting is to review a Request for Determination for the construction of a new pool and patio at 16 Nathaniel Way, Map 249 Parcel 54.12.

Anyone interested in this matter should attend remotely: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/307764501> 02/25/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS21P0056EA
Estate of:
Jean Paul Demers
Also known as:
Jean Paul Joseph Demers,
Jean P. Demers,
Jean P. Demers
Date of Death: 05/01/2020
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Gina M. Lunden** of Holland, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Gina M. Lunden** of Holland, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Linda S. Fidnick**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 01, 2021
Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
02/25/2021

**Belchertown
Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40 (Wetlands Protection Act) and the Belchertown Wetland Bylaw, the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing **virtually on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM.** The purpose of this meeting is to review a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a single family home at Granby Road, Map 267 Parcel 53. Anyone interested in this matter should attend remotely: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/273511213> 02/25/2021

**Notice of
Planning Board Hearing
Relative to
Proposed Zoning By-law
Amendments
Pursuant to
MGL c.40A, §5.**

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, the Planning Board will hold a remote public hearing to discuss proposed Amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaws – **to Change "Board of Selectmen" wherever it appears to "Select Board"**

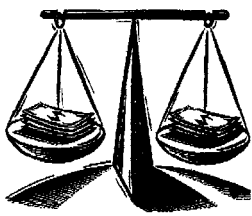
A public hearing will be held as follows:
Place: Remotely by Planning Board, Belchertown
Date: March 9, 2021
Time: 7:05 PM
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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02/18, 02/25/2021

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION**
**S N O W ' S S E L F
STORAGE LLC**, will sell at **Public Auction** at 746 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA, all the personal property stored in its facility by:
Larry Foote – M29
Joshua Vermette – M58
At **10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 20, 2021**, at the premises of **S N O W ' S SELF STORAGE LLC**, 746 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA, by Warren Schreiber, Auctioneer, as Agent for Snow's Self Storage, LLC.
Snow's Self-Storage reserves the following rights: to bid at the public auction, to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.
02/25, 03/04/2021



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Jamie Joslyn
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Email: jamie@turley.com

BUSINESS

Mass Humanities announces new sponsorships for events hosted by history organizations

REGION – Mass Humanities is pleased to announce a new sponsorship that will support local history organizations in their efforts to reach audiences near and far through online programs and events.

The Bridge Street Fund for Local History will sponsor free online programs hosted by Massachusetts historical societies, centers, museums, or historic sites, helping these institutions recover lost income, and enabling free access to the humanities.

Organizations can apply for sponsorships for up to three online programs per eligible applicant, at \$500 per program (\$1,500 maximum). Programs must be open to the general public and must be

free to attend.

“Every Massachusetts resident deserves the opportunity to learn, question, and contribute to the histories of their communities,” said Brian Boyles, Executive Director of Mass Humanities. “As we confront the challenges of the pandemic, racial injustice, and political polarization, we feel more than ever the need to reconnect with the events and people that shaped the places we call home.”

Mass Humanities will begin accepting applications on March 1. Grants will be awarded every three to four weeks.

For more information, please contact Sara Seng at sara@heardstrategy.com.

See more Business news on page 13

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



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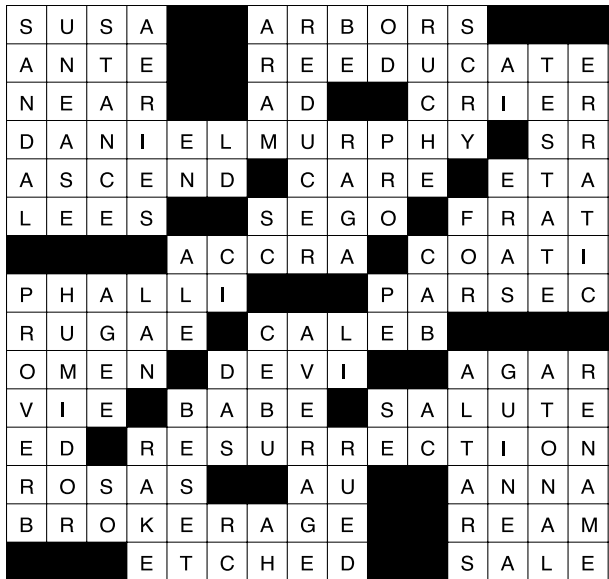
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OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

Madeleine M. Linde (Letourneau)
Died: Feb. 19, 2021

Alice Gordon Stewart
Beers & Story
South Hadley

The Sentinel
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Madeleine Linde

YORK, MAINE – Madeleine M. (Letourneau) Linde, 86 of Crystal St, passed away on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 in Durgin Pines. She was born Sep. 23, 1934 in Saint-Pierre, Canada a daughter of the late Vincent D. and Leonie (Lahaye) Letourneau.

She leaves her husband of 47 years, William “Gus” Linde; a daughter Michele L. Ouhl and her husband Gregory of York, Maine; a grandson Travis J. Ouhl; a great-granddaughter Annabelle Bruno and her father Nicholas Bruno; her brothers and sisters Maurice Letourneau and his wife Jovette, Jeannine (Letourneau) Fortin and her late husband Roger, Jean-Guy Letourneau and his wife Louise, Louis-Charles Letourneau and his wife Micheline Daigneault and Nicole (Letourneau) Daley and her late husband Oswald.

Her first husband Edwin P. Boardman and a granddaughter Amber Noyes-Ouhl predeceased her.

Madeleine and Gus owned and operated a Bed & Breakfast for many years in Tunbridge, Vermont before moving to Belchertown to be with family. Madeleine spent many years working and volunteering at the Belchertown Senior Center where she enjoyed making crafts and fundraising. She loved Christmas and would spend many weeks before Christmas making fudge and cookies while enjoying time with her grandchildren, Travis and Amber. They retired to York, Maine in 2003. Her biggest joy in life was her family. She will be dearly missed by all.

The family would like to express their deepest appreciation to all the staff at Durgin Pines for the kind and loving care they gave to their Maddy.

Funeral services will be held privately. Memorial contributions may be made to Durgin Pines, 9 Lewis Rd., Kittery, Maine 03904.

Lucas & Eaton Funeral Home, York, Maine is assisting with arrangements. Visit www.lucaseatonfuneral-home.com

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Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am - 4pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Alice Stewart

GRANBY – Alice Gordon Stewart, 82 of Granby, passed away after a quick and unexpected decline of health.

Alice was born in New York City on March 5, 1938 to Miriam T. Ellison and Thurlow M. Gordon. She married Fred Stewart, III on Nov. 7, 1956. She faithfully and lovingly followed Fred around the country as his service and work required, eventually retiring in Granby to be near family.

In Granby, Alice found an even larger family that she ever expected to have. She volunteered her time and money to many groups and causes helping those not as fortunate in life. Alice’s legacy will live on in Granby through her gifts to Friends of the Library. The other great love in Alice’s life was gardening where she grew an incredible diversity of trees, flowers and plants of all kinds.



She is survived by her sons Robert and John, her four grandchildren, Sunny, Lavender, Nichole and Jenna, as well as her four great grandsons Christopher, Connor, Owen and Preston. She is also survived by her brother, Bob Gordon, and extra grandchildren Kyle, Garrett, Libby, JJ, Evan, Connor W and Autumn.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 3 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home. A live virtual service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on March 3 by going to <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/927527452>. Donations may be made in her name to the Friends of the Granby Library or any group helping those in need.

For more information, please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Belchertown town clerk reminders

BELCHERTOWN – Nomination Papers for the May 17 Town Election are available now at the Town Clerk’s office. The Town Hall remains closed to the public due to COVID-19. If you’re interested in running this year, please call 323-0281 and you get your candidate statement form emailed or mailed to you. Complete and either mail, email or use the drop box at Town Hall. Your nomination papers will be mailed to you.

The last day to take out nomination papers is Friday, March 26. The last day to submit Nomination papers is Monday, March 29. You will need to obtain 50 Belchertown Registered Voter signatures – but candidates are always encouraged to get more than 50. The offices up for election/re-election are Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Housing Authority, Planning Board, School Committee, Selectman and Town Clerk.

FREE INTRO • from page 5

Peters said these days many young students are not exposed to manufacturing at all and are unfamiliar with it either generally or specifically. That exposure differs from when he was young, when many people knew people in manufacturing even if their immediate family wasn’t involved, he said. The classes provide that exposure if they’ve never had it in school or in the workforce,” he said.

“He’s lived manufacturing and breathed it his whole life, and in my mind that makes his opinion about it very credible,” said Gadaire of Peters’ opinion that it gives potential job seekers a way into manufacturing.

For more information or to register for the classes contact Kate Smith at Masshire Holyoke at 413-322-7162 or Ksmith@massshireholyyoke.org or Yvette Jackson at Masshire Springfield at 413-858-2827 or yjackson@masshirespringfield.org.

The funding for the classes was provided by the state Office of Housing and Economic Development

SEARCH • from page 1

tressed,” Gramarossa said. “I took that as something to pay attention to.”

Selectboard member Jim Barry, who put to the topic on the agenda, said the subject caused the most phone calls and emails he’s received in many years serving as an elected official.

“There was substantial concern in regard to the lack of local fire fighters being involved as well as the lack of women involved,” said Barry. “Many (call firefighters) felt disrespected and ignored. Not only did we receive a letter from the union of the paid fire fighters, I heard from volunteer firefighters.”

Jen Turner said there was a lot of input from the previous veterans’ agent when the told hired a new one, a process which she believes should be used when hiring a new Fire Chief.

“It also brings to mind if we had an HR function in government if there was some interview process for these people, that would have been very helpful when going through this,” Turner said. “I think we did the best we could with the qualifications on paper.”

Boscher said he reached out to people, including the Chief Edward Bock.

“Chief Bock was kind enough to meet with me,” he said. “I got a great history lesson about the fire buildings, fire people, fire staff and a great education on the call folks. I appreciate that.”

He said the committee must learn the “ins and outs of the building” and as part of the process, the committee should be required to listen to the firefighters and call force.

“His main question, which I told him I was going to appropriate to anyone we hopefully talk to, is ‘How are you going to work with the call guys?’” Boscher said. “I think we need to make a better effort in addressing what is important to the call folks.”

O’Connor said he remained steadfast in his thought that “you don’t hire your replacement.”

“You don’t put staff on that that may have existing relationships with the candidates for a variety of reasons,” he said. “It’s a highly litigious situation, or can be...In my initial motion, there was more experience and we swapped out direct fire experience for diversity.”

He said he believed the expectation is that the search committee will educate themselves to the subject of firefighting.

“It’s a long-standing position of mine that you don’t let staff (on the committee) and you don’t hire yourself,” O’Connor said.

Fuller has served as a volunteer for decades and Girard is currently a full-time firefighter in Belchertown.

Fuller and Girard will be joining current members Belchertown Police Chief Chris Pronovost, Dept. of Public Works Director Steve Williams, Finance Committee Chair Ron Aponte, Jabish Brook Middle School Principal Thomas Ruscio, Ludlow Fire Chief Ryan Pease, School Committee Chair Heidi Gutenkenst and Belchertown resident Matt Jackson.

The committee’s task is to conduct interviews with candidates and present finalists to the Selectboard.

The need to hire a new chief arose following the announcement of long-time chief Edward Bock who announced his retirement in a letter to the Selectboard in December.

The Selectboard aims on sticking to the timeline proposed by Town Administrator Gary Brougham.

The search committee will meet to go through applications and begin the process of getting three finalists which will be brought to the Selectboard to make a final vote. In Dec., Brougham said the goal is to have a person appointed in April 2021 “so there could be some overlap between the outgoing and incoming chiefs.”

BusinessWest accepting nominations for 40 Under Forty Class of 2020

Nominations close Feb. 26

SPRINGFIELD — BusinessWest magazine is now accepting nominations for its 40 Under Forty class of 2021, and will accept them up to the Feb. 26 deadline.

Launched in 2007, the recognition program is a celebration of rising stars in the four counties of Western Mass. The process of selecting the region's 40 Under Forty begins with nominations.

The background materials submitted on a given individual are the primary source of information to be weighed by a panel of five judges who will score the candidates.

Those at BusinessWest encourage submissions to be thorough, detailing the candidate's success in business, involve-

ment in the community, and awards and designations. Supporting information (such as a résumé) may be sent to godaire@businesswest.com. Please include the nominee's name in the subject line.

Nominees must be under age 40 as of April 1, 2021. Nominations can be submitted at businesswest.com/40-under-forty-nomination-form . Only nominations submitted to BusinessWest through the online form will be considered.

The selected individuals will be profiled in the May 12 edition of BusinessWest and celebrated at the annual 40 Under Forty Gala on June 24.

For more information, call Jennifer Godaire, Marketing and Events director, at 413-781-8600, ext. 100, or e-mail godaire@businesswest.com.

Belchertown resident announces new publications and appointment

BELCHERTOWN – Dr. Ed Tick, a resident of Belchertown, is a nationally recognized psychotherapist, writer and international journey guide. He is author of six books, four non-fiction and two poetry.

He is honored for his work in the trauma, veteran and archetypal healing fields. He maintains a private practice as well as leading transformational pilgrimages overseas.

Tick is pleased to announce several new publications and share them with the community. They are all available for free:

Close Encounters in War Journal,
Www.closeencountersinwar.org, Issue #3.

"The Manchu Comes Home," about therapy with returning a Vietnam veteran, as well as war-related poetry.

Survive and Thrive: Journal of Medical Humanities, Vol. 5: Iss. 2, Article

5: https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/survive_thrive/vol5/iss2/5

Photo-essay: "Community, Diversity
and Reconciliation in Remote Vietnamese
Villages."

Center Post

“Noah and the Pandemic,” on the Bible and its teachings about the universal dimensions of the global crisis:

<https://centerpost.rowecenter.org/noah-and-the-pandemic-a-survivors-transformation-ed-tick/?fbclid=IwAR0CLb9TqfOd938YKcQQxoRhhWhgsrqfFgmkdrukxyALAIILaPORNdtPhi4>

Tick has also been appointed to the international editorial board of the journal *Close Encounters in War* and welcome proposals for writing for this journal from veterans, healers and other survivors or witnesses.

RACE • from page 9

Coby will compete at the Icebreaker in the #20CT Modified Rick Czarnecki. For the Thompson 300, he will be behind the wheel of his own Doug Coby Racing #10CT car that debuted in 2020.

Coby is one of multiple drivers planning to do double-duty with the Icebreaker and the NASCAR Modified Tour event at Virginia's Martinsville Speedway on April 8. Another is multi-time NASCAR Modified and Modified Racing Series (MRS) winner Eric Goodale of Riverhead, NY. Goodale, who is currently competing in the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing at Florida's New Smyrna Speedway, is looking forward to keeping the Thompson Modified tradition alive.

"I love racing at Thompson," Goodale said. "It's one of my favorite tracks. I'm excited to do it. The thought to go into a Modified season and not have a Modified race at Thompson would be a bit disturbing. This is the stuff I grew up on, and I'm finally getting to live it everyday. I'll be leaving Martinsville, heading home, switching the car over and heading right to Thompson for a double-header weekend."

Several other notable names have already

joined Coby in committing early to both the Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300. Multi-time Thompson Speedway champion and former NASCAR Weekly Racing Series national champion Keith Rocco of Berlin, CT will be gunning for the two five-figure first prizes in his familiar #57CT. So will former Modified Racing Series (MRS) and International Supermodified Association (ISMA) champion Jonathan McKennedy of Chelmsford, MA. Others who beat the crowd with their entries include 2011 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Ron Silk, two-time MRS champion Chris Pasteryak, and recent MRS winner Ronnie Williams.

The Icebreaker entry list alone, meanwhile, is nearing two dozen names with two months still to go before the event. One driver that everyone will have their eyes on is Franklin, MA's Bobby Santos III. Santos has become the dean of big-money open-wheel events in recent years, winning everything from the Musket 250 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to the Little 500 at Indiana's Anderson Speedway. At the Icebreaker 125, Santos will be in the cockpit of the #44MA Tinto Racing car he has piloted to 11 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victories.

Other high-profile names preparing

for the Icebreaker 125 are MRS champion Anthony Nocella, recent World Series Modified Open winner Mike Christopher Jr., many-time Modified winner Richard Savary, and former Pro-4 Modified stand-out Derek Robbie. While their Thompson plans remain to be seen beyond the Icebreaker, a good start could certainly spur them to attend more of the planned big-money events.

The Icebreaker 125 is the opener of the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series for 2021. The six-race series includes the annual Icebreaker, the Thompson 300 as part of the World Series of Speedway Racing, and four Wednesday night events held between June and September. The Wednesday events will pay a minimum of \$5,000 to win; meanwhile, the Icebreaker and Thompson 300 have guaranteed top prizes of \$10,000 and \$20,000, respectively. All told, more than \$250,000 in purse money will be posted at

these six races.

The Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300 entry forms, along with the rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series, have been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds (link is external). The early-entry deadlines are March 15 for the Icebreaker 125 and April 15 for the Thompson 300. More information about the series will be released throughout the season.

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the 46th Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. The Icebreaker 125 is part of a nine-division that also includes all of Thompson's local divisions plus the Pro All Stars Series Super Late Models, NEMA Lites, and EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge.

The full event schedule and ticketing info will be announced in the coming weeks. All local and state health and safety guidelines are in effect.

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24. Junior's father
25. Go up or climb
26. Concern
27. When you hope to get there
28. Iacocca and Oswald are two
29. Plant of the lily family
30. Male college organization
31. National capital
33. Raccoonlike animal
34. Symbols of fertility
38. Astronomy unit

39. Series of ridges in anatomy
40. Hebrew leader
43. A portent of good or evil
44. Supreme goddess
45. Gelatinous substance
49. Engage in a contest
50. Famed ballplayer Ruth
51. Pledge
53. - __, denotes past
54. Revival
56. Spanish surname
58. Gold
59. Elsa's sister
60. Workplace
63. Large quantity of something
64. Engraved
65. Discount

CLUES DOWN

1. Shoe
2. Disquiet
3. Posture

4. Large nests
5. Soviet "Second Symphony" composer
6. Joins two pipes of different diameter
7. Exist
8. Overdose
9. Pleat of fabric
10. Predict the future
13. Burgeoning technology
14. Having made a valid will
15. Having no fixed course
20. __ route
21. Lethal dose
22. Indian musical pattern of notes
23. Athlete
27. Geological times
29. Atomic #21
30. In support of
31. Brew
32. Certificate of insurance
33. Taxi

34. Type of saying
35. For cigars
36. Phil __, former CIA
37. Local area network
38. Gym class
40. Philippine Island
41. Not great or bad
42. Eastern part of NY state
44. Gov't lawyers
45. Constructions
46. Former British gold coin
47. Unkeyed
48. Rechristen
50. Threaten persistently
51. Southeast
52. Cools your home
54. Removes the leaves
55. Regretted
57. Thus
61. Relief organization (abbr.)
62. Exclamation of surprise

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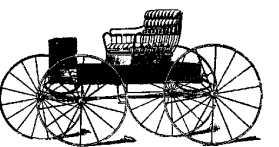
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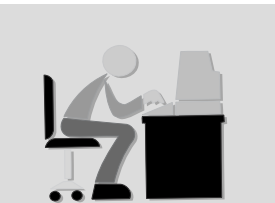
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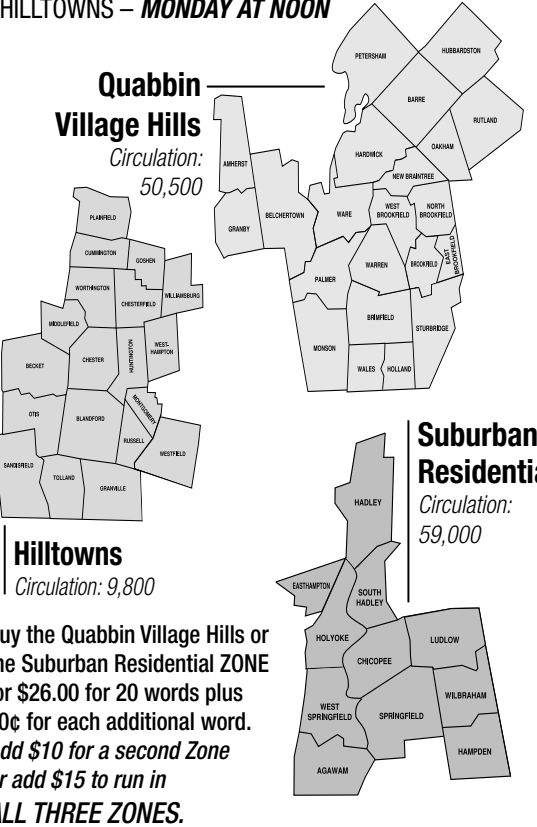
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Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN – This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, Feb. 25 to Wednesday, March 3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.

Thursday, Feb. 25

- 8 a.m. – Selectboard - Feb. 22
- 10 a.m. – Conservation Commission - Feb. 22
- 12 p.m. – Planning Board - Feb. 23
- 5:30 p.m. – Council on Aging - Channel 191
- 7 p.m. – Selectboard - Feb. 22
- 9 p.m. – Conservation Commission - Feb. 22
- 11 p.m. – Planning Board - Feb. 23

Friday, Feb. 26

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – COVID-19 Update
- 9:30 a.m. – Zoning Board of Appeals - Feb. 17
- 11:30 a.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee - Feb. 18
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. – COVID-19 Update
- 8:30 p.m. – Zoning Board of Appeals - Feb. 17
- 10:30 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee - Feb. 18

Saturday, Feb. 27

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
- 9 a.m. – COVID-19 Update

Sunday, Feb. 28

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee - Feb. 18

Monday, March 1

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6:30 p.m. – Selectboard - Channel 191
- 7 p.m. – Board of Health - Channel 192

Tuesday, March 2

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe

Wednesday, March 3

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 1 p.m. – Meditation with Lori - Journey Meditation
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.Belchertown.org. On the main title page select “residents,” click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www.Belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on “watch meetings and events online.” The schedule is subject to change.

The BCTV weather information system is broadcast on TV channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station as well as, the current regional radar. This service operates 24 hours a day with audio provided by the National Weather Service from Albany New York, with forecasts, storm and emergency warnings for the Pioneer Valley.

NAMI offers free peer-to-peer program

AGAWAM – NAMI Peer-to-Peer is a free eight-week, recovery-focused educational program for adults who wish to establish and maintain their wellness. Great value is placed on the individual experiences of each person in the class, participants are empowered and invited to share their own stories and the coping tools that have worked for them.

Participants can create their own vision statement, SMART goals, recovery workbook, support networks, awareness grid and crisis plan.

Peer-to-peer programs are transforming and give participants the tools for self-discovery, self-care, finding community, making decisions and moving forward, making friends, building healthy relationships, setting goals, dimensions of wellness, directing care, relapse prevention, gaining confidence, relaxation, empowerment, self-acceptance and understanding and I statements.

It starts on Thursday Feb. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for eight weeks, ending on April 15. Contact information@namiwm.org or go to namiwm.org/support to register.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.



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